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Trump is accused in court of rape. Will it matter in 2024?

By SARA BURNETT
Associated Press
E. Jean Carroll testified in sometimes searing detail about the day she says Donald Trump raped her in a department store dressing room two decades before he became president, allegations the Republican has repeatedly and vehemently denied. Taking the witness stand in support of Carroll this week, two friends told jurors that they spoke with the former magazine columnist shortly after the alleged 1996 attack, and that they believe she is telling the truth. Other women testified about separate encounters; one said Trump grabbed and groped her while they were on a flight in the late 1970s, the other told jurors he forcibly kissed her at his Florida home in 2005.



Former U.S. president Donald Trump plays golf at Trump International Golf Links & Hotel in Doonbeg, Ireland, Thursday, May 4, 2023, during his visit to Ireland.

Associated Press

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MONDAY
ANGELA FLORES
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TUESDAY
JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30pm - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY
EDDIE KROON
SINGER
6:30pm - 8:30pm

THURSDAY
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30pm - 8:30pm

FRIDAY
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Trump is accused in court of rape. Will it matter in 2024?

Continued from Front

The accounts, shared during the civil trial on Carroll's claims of battery and defamation against Trump, mark the first time that any of the numerous allegations of sexual misconduct against the former president have been heard in a court trial. Given a chance to rebut Carroll's accusations on the witness stand, Trump declined to make an appearance, instead traveling overseas. He told reporters in Ireland that he may still testify in person, though his attorney said in court that he will not and that they will not present other witnesses.

For most politicians, the allegations laid out in a New York courtroom would be enough to torpedo any future aspirations. But Trump isn't the average politician, a fact that became clear when he won the 2016 presidential contest a month after the release of an "Access Hollywood" tape in which he boasted about sexually assaulting women and said that as a star, "you can do anything."

Now, as Trump campaigns for a 2024 presidential bid, the Carroll case provides another test of Trump's ability to survive scandals that would sink others. Some political observers say the public already has hardened opinions of the former president — love him or hate him — and that claims about him abusing women aren't new.

"At this point, the American people have a pretty good sense of Donald Trump's character, so it is unlikely that the Carroll trial will change many voters' minds," said Christina Wolbrecht, a political science professor at the University of Notre Dame who studies politics and gender. She said a more relevant question is whether a verdict against Trump in this trial, or convictions in other cases, will scare away potential donors or advisers.

In addition to the Carroll case, Trump was recently charged in New York with 34 felony counts of falsifying business records in a hush-money scheme to cover up allegations of extramarital affairs during the 2016 campaign. He is also under criminal investigation over his attempts to overturn his 2020 election loss and his retention of classified documents after leaving office.

Democratic pollster Celinda Lake, who has worked with President Joe Biden, said that dur-



Former advice columnist E. Jean Carroll, left, leaves Manhattan federal court, Thursday, May 4, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

ing recent focus groups she's been conducting with Democratic and independent likely voters on Trump and his legal troubles, women kept volunteering that the case they were most troubled by is "the rape case." That has left Lake thinking the trial testimony could be more damaging than she initially assumed.

"I was flabbergasted, because I thought this was baked in" to how voters feel about Trump, Lake said. "They knew he didn't respect women and that he was a real playboy, but rape is different."

Steven Cheung, a spokesperson for Trump's campaign, did not respond to a message seeking comment for this story.

Trump's other legal issues have so far brought limited political fallout, but that could change, according to a poll last month by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

It found only 4 in 10 U.S. adults believe Trump acted illegally in the New York hush-money case. About half of voters believe he broke the law in Georgia, where he is under investigation for interfering in the 2020 election vote count, the poll found.

It also showed about half feel similarly about Trump's role in his supporters' storming of the

U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, and his handling of classified documents found at Mar-a-Lago. The poll did not ask about the Carroll case.

Carroll filed a defamation suit against Trump while he was still president, over denials and insults he made about her. She filed the rape claim in November, under a New York state law that temporarily allows sexual assault victims to sue over alleged attacks that happened even decades ago. Because it is a civil and not criminal case, Trump faces no prison time; Carroll is seeking unspecified monetary damages.

Jurors did see parts of a recorded deposition in which Trump answered questions under oath last fall. He called Carroll a "nut job" and "mentally sick," adding, "She said that I did something to her that never took place." The jury also was shown the "Access Hollywood" tape.

Trump, his attorneys and his supporters have dismissed Carroll's allegations as politically motivated attacks and an attempt to sell more copies of her memoir. Trump has said he wasn't at the department store with Carroll and had no clue who she was when she first aired the story publicly. On his social media network last week, Trump called the case "a made up SCAM."

At trial, Trump's attorney also questioned why Carroll didn't report the alleged assault to police at the time; Carroll, 79, said many people her age were conditioned to keep quiet about such attacks. Carroll, a registered Democrat, also testified that she voted for Trump's Democratic opponents in 2016 and 2020 but said that has nothing to do with her lawsuit.

Rachel O'Leary Carmona, executive director of Women's March, said she is hopeful that Carroll's case will mobilize voters. After Trump's election, millions of people turned out to protest him at women's marches across the country, and the events have been credited with sparking increased political involvement by women, including seeing a record number of women elected to the U.S. House in the 2018 midterms. "I hope that we can take this moment as another proof point of the absolutely dire, critically dire need to build women's political power in this country," she said.

The Associated Press typically does not name people who say they have been sexually assaulted unless they come forward publicly, as Carroll has done. □

Biden, Harris mark Cinco de Mayo with quesadilla, churros

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden celebrated Cinco de Mayo on Friday by stepping out for a quesadilla and tacos at a Washington food hall. His unannounced visit prompted one onlooker to remark, "This is the most D.C. thing that's ever happened to me."

Biden was joined by Vice President Kamala Harris at Taqueria Habanero, in the Edgewood neighborhood of the capital. The president paid in cash for his order and posed with staff for pictures. Aides said Biden ordered a chicken quesadilla and churros, as well as an assortment of tacos for White House staff. To the people peering over a wall and looking down

from their apartment balconies to see him, the president joked, "Don't jump."

Cinco de Mayo is a yearly celebration on May 5 that commemorates Mexico's 1862 victory over France in the Battle of Puebla. The holiday has become increasingly popular in the United States.

Last year, Biden and his wife, Jill, celebrated Cinco de Mayo at the White House. In 2021, the president visited Las Gemelas, a Mexican restaurant in Washington and told workers there that the company would be receiving financial aid from his COVID relief package. □



CDC's Rochelle Walensky resigns, citing pandemic transition

By MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, submitted her resignation Friday, saying the waning of the COVID-19 pandemic was a good time to make a transition.

Walensky's last day will be June 30, CDC officials said, and an interim director wasn't immediately named. She sent a resignation letter to President Joe Biden and announced the decision at a CDC staff meeting.

Walensky, 54, has been the agency's director for a little over two years, and the announcement took many health experts by surprise. In her letter to Biden, she expressed "mixed feelings" about the decision and didn't explain exactly why she was stepping down, but said the nation is at a moment of transition as emergency declarations come to an end.

"I have never been prouder of anything I have done in my professional career," she wrote. The World Health Organization said Friday



Dr. Rochelle Walensky, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, testifies during a Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee hearing to examine an update on the ongoing Federal response to COVID-19, June 16, 2022, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

that COVID-19 no longer qualifies as a global emergency, and the U.S. public health emergency will expire next week. Deaths in the U.S. are at their lowest point since the earliest days of the coronavirus outbreak in early 2020.

The CDC, with a \$12 billion budget and more than 12,000 employees, is an At-

lanta-based federal agency charged with protecting Americans from disease outbreaks and other public health threats.

Walensky, previously an infectious-diseases specialist at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, had no experience running a government health agency when

she was sworn in on the first day of the Biden administration.

She came with a reputation as a prominent voice on the pandemic, sometimes criticizing how the government was responding. She was brought in to raise morale at the CDC, to rebuild public trust in the agency and to improve its

sometimes-bumbling response to the pandemic.

At the time of her arrival, more than 400,000 U.S. COVID-19 deaths had been reported, and states were scrambling to get supplies of new vaccines. Morale at the CDC was abysmal. The Trump administration had marginalized the agency, with the White House taking over the government's messaging about the pandemic and sometimes opposing or undermining what the CDC wanted to do.

"No CDC director in history inherited the set of challenges she faced coming into the job," said Jason Schwartz, a health policy expert at the Yale School of Public Health.

The CDC regained prominence in government messaging although even under Biden, the White House remained at center stage in the handling of the response, Schwartz said.

She leaves at a time when the national COVID-19 death toll stands at about 1.1 million. Reported cases, hospitalizations and deaths have all been trending down for months. □

Press group: China biggest global jailer of journalists

WASHINGTON (AP) — China was the biggest global jailer of journalists last year with more than 100 behind bars, according to a press freedom group, as President Xi Jinping's government tightened control over society.

Xi's government also was one of the biggest exporters of propaganda content, according to Reporters Without Borders.

China ranked second to last on the group's annual index of press freedom, behind only neighbor North Korea.

The ruling Communist Party has tightened already strict controls on media in China, where all newspapers and broadcasters are

state-owned. Websites and social media are required to enforce censorship that bans material that might spread opposition to one-party rule.

Xi, China's most powerful figure in decades, called during a 2016 meeting with journalists who had been awarded official prizes for them to adhere to "the correct orientation of public opinion."

Xi is pursuing a "crusade against journalism," Reporters Without Borders said in a report Wednesday. It called China's decline in press freedom "disastrous." Beijing operates what is regarded as the world's most extensive system of internet controls. Its filters try

to block the Chinese public from seeing websites abroad operated by news outlets, governments and human rights and other activist groups.

Chinese journalists have been prosecuted on charges of spying, leaking national secrets and picking quarrels, a vague accusation used to jail dissidents. Others are subjected to surveillance, intimidation and harassment.

Journalist Dong Yuyu, who worked at a ruling party-affiliated newspaper and is a former Harvard University fellow, faces espionage charges after being detained for more than one year, his family said last week.



Cheng Lei, a Chinese-born Australian journalist for CGTN, the English-language channel of China Central Television, attends a public event in Beijing on Aug. 12, 2020.

Associated Press

In 2022, Chinese-born Australian journalist Cheng Lei was tried in China on national security charges but has yet to learn the verdict, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong said in March. Cheng worked for CGTN, the English-language state TV channel aimed at for-

eign audiences. She was detained in August 2019 and accused of sharing state secrets.

In Hong Kong, the Communist Party forced a prominent newspaper, Apple Daily, to shut down as part of a crackdown on pro-democracy sentiment. □

U.S. to control land sales to foreigners near 8 military bases

By **MARGARET STAFFORD, TARA COPP and FATIMA HUSSEIN**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Foreign citizens and companies would need U.S. government approval to buy property within 100 miles (160 kilometers) of eight military bases, under a proposed rule change that follows a Chinese firm's attempt to build a plant near an Air Force base in North Dakota.

The Treasury Department's Office of Investment Security is set to propose the rule on Friday. The rule would give expanded powers to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, which screens business deals between U.S. firms and foreign investors and can block sales or force the parties to change the terms of an agreement to protect national security. Controversy arose over plans by the Fufeng Group to build a \$700 million wet corn milling plant about 12 miles (19 kilometers) from the Grand Forks Air Force Base, which houses air and



An emergency vehicle barrier at Ellsworth Air Force Base in Rapid City, S.D., on May 2, 2019.

Associated Press

space operations.

As opposition to the project grew, North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum and U.S. Sens. John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer, all Republicans, raised questions about the security risks and asked the federal government last July for an expedited review.

CFIUS told Fufeng in September that it was reviewing the proposal and eventually concluded that it did

not have jurisdiction to stop the investment.

The plans were eventually dropped after the Air Force said the plant would pose a significant threat to national security.

The new rule would affect Grand Forks and seven other bases, including three that are tied to the B-21 Raider, the nation's future stealth bomber. The Pentagon has taken great pains to protect its new, most-ad-

vanced bomber from spying by China. The bomber will carry nuclear weapons and be able to fly manned and unmanned missions.

Six bombers are in various stages of production at Air Force Plant 42, located in Palmdale, California, while the two other bases will serve as future homes for the 100-aircraft stealth bomber fleet: Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota and Dyess Air Force Base in

Texas.

Also on the list were Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio and Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas, both training bases. The others selected for greater protection are the Iowa National Guard Joint Force Headquarters in Des Moines, Iowa, and Luke Air Force Base in Glendale, Arizona.

The locations were selected for a variety of reasons, including the sensitivity of either current or future missions that would be based there, if they were near special use airspace, where military operations would be conducted or whether they were near military training routes, said a defense official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters. CFIUS, a committee whose members come from the State, Justice, Energy and Commerce departments among others, already had the power to block property sales within 100 miles of other military bases under a 2018 law. □

With detailed race question, Census may end ancestry ask

By **MIKE SCHNEIDER**

Associated Press

Is ancestry history? The U.S. Census Bureau is contemplating getting rid of a question about a person's ancestry on its most comprehensive survey, saying it may duplicate a newly-revised race question that allows respondents to write from where they or their an-

tecedents came.

The Census Bureau is conducting research to determine if they get fewer responses, if data quality is compromised and what similarities or differences there are between the race and ancestry questions on the American Community Survey. The ancestry question has been asked since

the 1980s.

Preliminary findings show that respondents are more likely to answer the race question than the ancestry query and that the data pulled from the race question covers 88% of the 126 ancestry groups the statistical agency lists, Census Bureau officials told an advisory committee on Friday. Some civil rights groups, though, are worried the changes are premature and want the bureau to wait until detailed race data from the 2020 census is released for comparison. They also say proposed changes to the federal government's race and ethnicity categories by the White House's Office of Management and Budget could impact the way people respond.

The OMB's proposed

changes, currently under review, would combine the race and ethnic origin questions into a single query because some advocates say the current method of asking about race and separately about ethnic origin often confuses Hispanic respondents. It also would create a new category for people of Middle Eastern and North African descent, also known by the acronym MENA, who are now classified as white but say they have been routinely undercounted.

"It is possible, for example, that respondents view their 'ancestry' and the ancestry of their household members, including children differently than they view their race or ethnicity subgroup or national origin," The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights said

last month in a letter asking the Census Bureau to pause its research on the matter.

The Census Bureau's decision on whether to eliminate the ancestry question likely won't come for another year or two, well after any changes to the federal government's race and ethnicity categories are decided next year.

The American Community Survey is the bureau's largest survey and asks about more than 40 topics ranging from income, internet access, rent, disabilities and language spoken at home. Along with the census, it helps determine how \$1.5 trillion in federal spending is distributed each year, where schools are built and the location of new housing developments, among other things. □



An envelope containing a 2020 census letter mailed to a U.S. resident sits on a desk on on April 5, 2020, in Detroit.

Associated Press

WHO downgrades COVID pandemic, says it's no longer emergency

By MARIA CHENG and JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — The World Health Organization said Friday that COVID-19 no longer qualifies as a global emergency, marking a symbolic end to the devastating coronavirus pandemic that triggered once-unthinkable lockdowns, upended economies and killed millions of people worldwide.

The announcement, made more than three years after WHO declared the coronavirus an international crisis, offers some relief, if not an ending, to a pandemic that stirred fear and suspicion, hand-wringing and finger-pointing across the globe.

The U.N. health agency's officials said that even though the emergency phase was over, the pandemic hasn't finished, noting recent spikes in cases in Southeast Asia and the Middle East.

WHO says thousands of people are still dying from the virus every week, and millions of others are suffering from debilitating, long-term effects.

"It's with great hope that I declare COVID-19 over as a global health emergency," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

"That does not mean COVID-19 is over as a global health threat," he said,



A worker wearing a protective suit swabs a man's throat for a COVID-19 test at a coronavirus testing site in Beijing, on June 22, 2022.

warning that new variants could yet emerge. Tedros noted that while the official COVID-19 death toll was 7 million, the real figure was estimated to be at least 20 million. Tedros said the pandemic had been on a downward trend for more than a year, acknowledging that most countries have already returned to life before COVID-19.

He bemoaned the damage that COVID-19 had done to the global community, saying the pandemic had shattered businesses, exacerbated political divisions, led to the spread of misinformation and plunged millions into

poverty.

The political fallout in some countries was swift and unforgiving. Some pundits say missteps by President Donald Trump in his administration's response to the pandemic had a role in his losing reelection bid in 2020. The United States saw the deadliest outbreak anywhere in the world where more than 1 million people died across the country.

Dr. Michael Ryan, WHO's emergencies chief, said it was incumbent on heads of states and other leaders to negotiate a wide-ranging pandemic treaty to decide how future health threats should be faced.

Ryan said that some of the scenes witnessed during COVID-19, when people resorted to "bartering for oxygen canisters," fought to get into emergency rooms and died in parking lots because they couldn't get treated, must never be repeated. When the U.N. health agency first declared the coronavirus to be an international crisis on Jan. 30, 2020, it hadn't yet been named COVID-19 and there were no major outbreaks beyond China. More than three years later, the virus has caused an estimated 764 million cases globally and about 5 billion people have received at

least one dose of vaccine. In the U.S., the public health emergency declaration made regarding COVID-19 is set to expire on May 11, when wide-ranging measures to support the pandemic response, including vaccine mandates, will end. Many other countries, including Germany, France and Britain, dropped most of their provisions against the pandemic last year. When Tedros declared COVID-19 to be an emergency in 2020, he said his greatest fear was the virus' potential to spread in countries with weak health systems.

In fact, some of the countries that suffered the worst COVID-19 death tolls were previously judged to be the best-prepared for a pandemic, including the U.S. and Britain. According to WHO data, the number of deaths reported in Africa account for just 3% of the global total.

WHO doesn't "declare" pandemics, but first used the term to describe the outbreak in March 2020, when the virus had spread to every continent except Antarctica, long after many other scientists had said a pandemic was already underway.

WHO is the only agency mandated to coordinate the world's response to acute health threats, but the organization faltered repeatedly as the coronavirus unfolded. □

Associated Press

Italian ex-leader Conte attacked by man protesting lockdowns

MILAN (AP) — Former Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte has been physically attacked during an official appearance in Tuscany by a man protesting against Italy's lockdowns and other measures to contain the coronavirus pandemic, Italian media reported Friday.

The man struck Conte in the face, and the assailant

was immediately detained by law enforcement, the news agency LaPresse reported. Conte didn't appear to have been seriously harmed.

"Dissent is legitimate, but this violent demonstration falls outside the democratic context," Conte said in a statement.

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni expressed solidarity

with Conte, whose party is in the opposition, and condemned "every form of violence."

Conte was premier when Italy became the first country in the West to confirm COVID-19 cases in February 2020, putting the country under a strict lockdown in early March, and he oversaw the start of Italy's vaccination campaign. □



Giuseppe Conte talks to the press at the Quirinale Presidential Palace after a meeting with Italian President Sergio Mattarella, in Rome on Oct. 20, 2022.

Associated Press

Group led by China, Russia criticizes global institutions

By KRUTIKA PATHI

Associated Press

PANAJI, India (AP) — Foreign ministers from a group of nations led by China and Russia criticized on Friday the ability of world institutions to resolve geopolitical problems, including the coronavirus pandemic, and said their organization should do more to address such challenges.

Indian Foreign Minister Subramanyam Jaishankar said in remarks at a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization that the crises have disrupted global supply chains and have hit developing nations the hardest.

They have “exposed a credibility and trust deficit in the ability of global institutions to manage challenges in a timely and efficient manner,” he said, adding that alternative organizations like the SCO can help address such challenges.

“With more than 40% of the world’s population within the SCO, our collective decisions will surely have a global impact,” he said.

Russia and China founded the SCO in 2001 as a counterweight to U.S. alliances



This photo released by Indian Foreign Ministry, shows from left, Pakistani Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Uzbekistani Foreign Minister Bakhtiyor Saidov, Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar, Kazakhstan’s Foreign Minister Murat Nurtleu, Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang, Kyrgyzstan’s Foreign Minister Jeenbek Kulubaev, and Tajikistan’s Foreign Minister Sirodjiddin Aslov, pose for a group photograph prior to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) council of foreign ministers’ meeting, in Goa, India, Friday, May 5, 2023.

across East Asia to the Indian Ocean. The group includes the four Central Asian nations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, which Russia considers its backyard. In 2017, India and Pakistan became members, and Iran and Belarus are set to

join later this year.

Russia and China have sought to reduce the dominance of what they see as U.S. and Western-led global institutions and alliances, and China accuses Washington of attempting to contain its economic and military rise.

Associated Press

Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang told the foreign ministers that “the world is faced with multiple crises and challenges featuring a resurgence of the Cold War mentality, headwinds of unilateral protectionism, as well as rising hegemonism and power poli-

tics,” China’s official Xinhua News Agency reported.

“SCO members should support each other in safeguarding sovereignty, security and development interests, and oppose external forces interfering in regional issues,” he said.

At a briefing after the meeting, Jaishankar dismissed questions about whether the SCO is anti-Western, saying, “how people perceive it is something I cannot answer for.” Instead, he stressed India’s “multidirectional foreign policy” and said “it’s not always possible that all our partners get along with other partners.”

India enjoys strong ties with Cold War ally Russia, while its relations with the United States have warmed in recent years and its ties with China have cooled over a border dispute. It is increasingly seen by the West as a counterweight to China’s growing global ambitions. Jaishankar did not mention Russia’s war in Ukraine, and analysts said Moscow was unlikely to face a backlash over its invasion from the SCO and would instead use the meeting to flex its influence in the region. □

Strong earthquake hits Japan, killing one, injuring 13

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — A strong, shallow earthquake hit central Japan on Friday afternoon, killing at least one person and injuring 13 others, but no tsunami warning was issued.

The magnitude 6.2 quake struck Ishikawa prefecture on the west coast of Japan’s main island of Honshu, the U.S. Geological Survey said. The Japan Meteorological Agency measured the quake at 6.5 and said it was centered at a depth of about 12 kilometers (7.5 miles).

One person was reported dead and at least 13 were

injured in Suzu city at the northern tip of Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa prefecture, a city official said. He said six homes were damaged and rain could trigger mudslides, causing further damage.

He did not say how the person died, but the Fire and Disaster Management Agency reported that a person was found without vital signs after falling from a ladder. It said another person was injured when a cabinet fell on them, and two people were rescued from damaged buildings in the city.

A video broadcast by NHK public television showed

a section of a hill that had crumbled and fallen on a house.

It also broadcast a video taken by a reporter who was visiting his family in Ishikawa prefecture that showed a room shaking for nearly half a minute, with picture frames rattling on the walls. Japan is celebrating several national holidays this week.

Government spokesperson Hirokazu Matsuno said there were reports of other damaged buildings but details were still being confirmed.

There was no reported damage at two nuclear power plants in the area,



A car is seen crushed by a collapsed house after a strong earthquake in Suzu city, Ishikawa prefecture, northern Japan, Friday, May 5, 2023.

Associated Press

he said.

East Japan Railway Co. said bullet trains connecting Tokyo and Kanazawa in Ishikawa prefecture were temporarily halted for safety checks but resumed normal operations, with some

delays.

Japan is one of the world’s most earthquake-prone nations. A massive 2011 quake in the country’s northeast caused a devastating tsunami and nuclear plant meltdown. □

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The maritime border between Aruba and Venezuela is officially open

(Oranjestad)—After many deliberations and negotiations, where authorities have reached concrete agreements with Venezuela concerning the conditions, the maritime border between Aruba and Venezuela was officially opened on May 1st of this year. Prime Minister Evelyn Wever-Croes has indicated there is no set date for the opening of the aerial border with the Latin American country, as deliberations must still take place.

She also pointed out that there are very strict conditions to which merchants from Venezuela must adhere, because it is important for the Aruban government to have



complete control.

One of these conditions is that ships that sail from Venezuela has to have been contracted by an agency on the island. This means that no ship is permitted to dock in Aruba to sell products without

specific instructions or responsibility from an agency on the island. Furthermore, crewmembers on board do not have a Visa to enter Aruba, so they are not permitted to leave port property and may only stay for a maximum of 48 hours.

At this time of writing, since the opening of the maritime border, there have been no ships yet that have docked at the ports. There is much paperwork that must be done both in Aruba and Venezuela, so it may take some time. "Maybe in the next few days, we may be able to import fruits and vegetables, edible products, construction material etc. at a cheaper

price. This can alleviate the burden of high living costs on the community of Aruba.

"With help from God we will make it. Soon ships will be docking on the island. The Aruban government is confident the agreement we made are so concrete and appropriate, that it will be safe to open the maritime border. Soon more deliberations will also take place concerning the reopening of the aerial border. There is still no set date for this, because there is still much to be done before we can implement this," the prime minister expressed.

Ten local citizens recently awarded with Royal Medal of Honor

(Oranjestad)— On April 26th, one day before the king's birthday, ten exemplary local citizens of Aruba have been awarded the Royal Medal of honor, presented by the His Excellency Alfonso Boekhoudt, Governor of Aruba. Three honorees were honored as 'Knights in the Order of Orange-Nassau', while the remaining seven were honored as 'Members in the Order of Orange-Nassau'. The ceremony took place at the ceremonial home of the governor.

These knights were given a medal for their extraor-

dinary volunteer work that they have been doing for many years, contributing to the well-being and education of the Aruban society. This honoring is not only a demonstration of gratitude, but also a source of inspiration. In order to be considered for a Royal Medal of Honor, a citizen must do volunteer work outside of their regular working hours. They must contribute one way or another to sports, scouting, culture, religious aspects, social work and more. Many people on Aruba dedicate themselves to volunteer work in these



areas y are also capable of being considered for a Royal Medal of Honor.

Citizens who have been honored as Knights in the Order of Orange-Nassau:

- Mr. Carlos Juan Benicio Albertus
- Mr. Goswino Adolfo Oduber
- Mr. Frank Albert Williams

Citizens who have been honored as Members in the Order of Orange-Nassau:

- Ms. Diana Margarita Flinders
- Mr. Emile André Ignatius Herdé
- Ms. Martiline Louise Hodge-Henry
- Mr. Gianantonio Angelo Muller
- Ms. Angelique Liseth Perez-Kelly
- Ms. Nataly Maria Simons-Thompson
- Ms. Mathilda Juanita Wijsenaar

Soon the registry will be open to the public to propose extraordinary citizens



who have contributed their time and passion for volunteer work with the goal to improve the quality of life of the Aruban community. Next year, another group of citizens will be picked to receive their Medal of Honor.



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Remember Amuse Bistro?...

They're back with a new concept; The Journey



Known for their successful and top-notch establishments Amuse Bistro and Amuse Sunset, Chef Patrick van der Donk and his wife Yvette, who is a certified sommelier, are back with their latest gastronomic adventure that is now to be found at The Journey, beside the famous red windmill (De Olde Moulin) just off Eagle Beach, and will surely bring a brand new concept to take you on a culinary journey you will never forget.

A family of 5, Chef Patrick, his wife Yvette and their 8 year old triplet sons, started their trajectory about a decade ago, with the renowned and loved Amuse Bistro that saw immense success. Due to a tragic incident in which the restaurant burned down, they gathered all their strength and continued their success at a new location behind the airport, as a brand new beginning named Amuse Sunset until they saw it come to an end. After overcoming unforeseen circumstances like the pandemic, the family is stronger than ever and reading to begin a new adventure and welcome you aboard.



The Journey offers a brand new, elegant and chic concept. Taking the table in 'Chef's Table' to heart, this new interpretation of 'chef's table' features stand-alone tables which seat only 20 patrons, all who must arrive before 7pm. Once you choose to embark on this adventure, the night will start once you arrived at your destination, right next to the mill in Palm Beach, where you will be welcomed with a toast of bubbles (on the house) on the terrace while you wait for

the beginning of an unforgettable night. Once the clock hits 7pm, you will be taken into the restaurant for a magical five-course Chef's choice pre-fixed menu that will take your taste buds on a high class world tour.

You can opt to pair your courses with the sommelier's expertly curated choice of fine wines by the glass or order a bottle from their impressive wine list. With an open kitchen concept, you get to witness the chef bring his inspiration and creations to life. By the end of the night, you are guaranteed to have made a few new friends with whom you've enjoyed a wonderful experience of culinary bliss.

The Journey is open from Mon-Fri and is reservation only, we ask that all guests with a reservation arrive before 7pm. For further questions or information, refer to their website <https://the-journeyaruba.com/> or contact Yvette at +297 565 0535

Make your reservation today and have a 'Bon Voyage!' ☐



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Aruparking is active again!

ORANJESTAD - Since the reactivation of Aruparking last year, with the support of an awareness campaign, chaotic parking in Oranjestad is now better regulated.

During a press conference held on Tuesday, May 2, the Minister of Transport, Mr. Ursell Arends, stated he spoke with various business people, who were all positive about the reintroduction of the Aruparking and indicated that this has added value for the center of Oranjestad. The intention is that Aruparking will eventually stand on its own feet financially and become independent of the Arubus.

In the reactivation process of the Aruparking, they introduced changes to regulate parking in the center: A total of 440 free parking spaces have been added: 236 parking spaces at the bus station of the Arubus, 180 at L.G. Smith Boulevard, and 24 downtown for pregnant women, elderly

persons, and people with disabilities.

Payment is now also possible with Pay.aw, Aruba-Bank, Banco di Caribe, credit Card, and cash.

A special parking permit has also been introduced for transport company vehicles established outside the center that regularly load or unload merchandise in the city's center.

For the proper course of events, parking remains the car owner's responsibility, even in the event of violations and incorrect parking. The wheel clamp is definitely off the table. It was one of the principal community's concerns, causing immobility within the center.

The government will enforce compliance with the implementation and monitoring of the policy through fines for not paying for park-

ing. In the event of a violation, the car owner or driver will receive a warning, and a subsequent violation will result in fines. If the fine is unpaid, they will send the invoice to the car owner's home via mail, per the registration information at the tax department.

In the event of incorrect parking on the sidewalk or view obstruction of other road users or public order hindrance, they will tow away the vehicle immediately with all additional costs for the car owner.



The reintroduction of the Aruparking will take place in phases in which progress will be closely monitored and evaluated.

The Minister of Transport emphasizes that the objec-

tives are order, control, and mobility.

For more information about Aruparking, contact 5202323 or via e-mail at info@aruparking.com.

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- PAY.AW**
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beauty & THE BEACH

Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to Robert and Kayla from Michigan, USA. This is their first time here and they said they love the warm weather and the beach. Their favorite stop so far is the Natural Pool. Aruba is always proud to host all families and guests. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover!

This segment is sponsored by Alhambra Casino and Shops.

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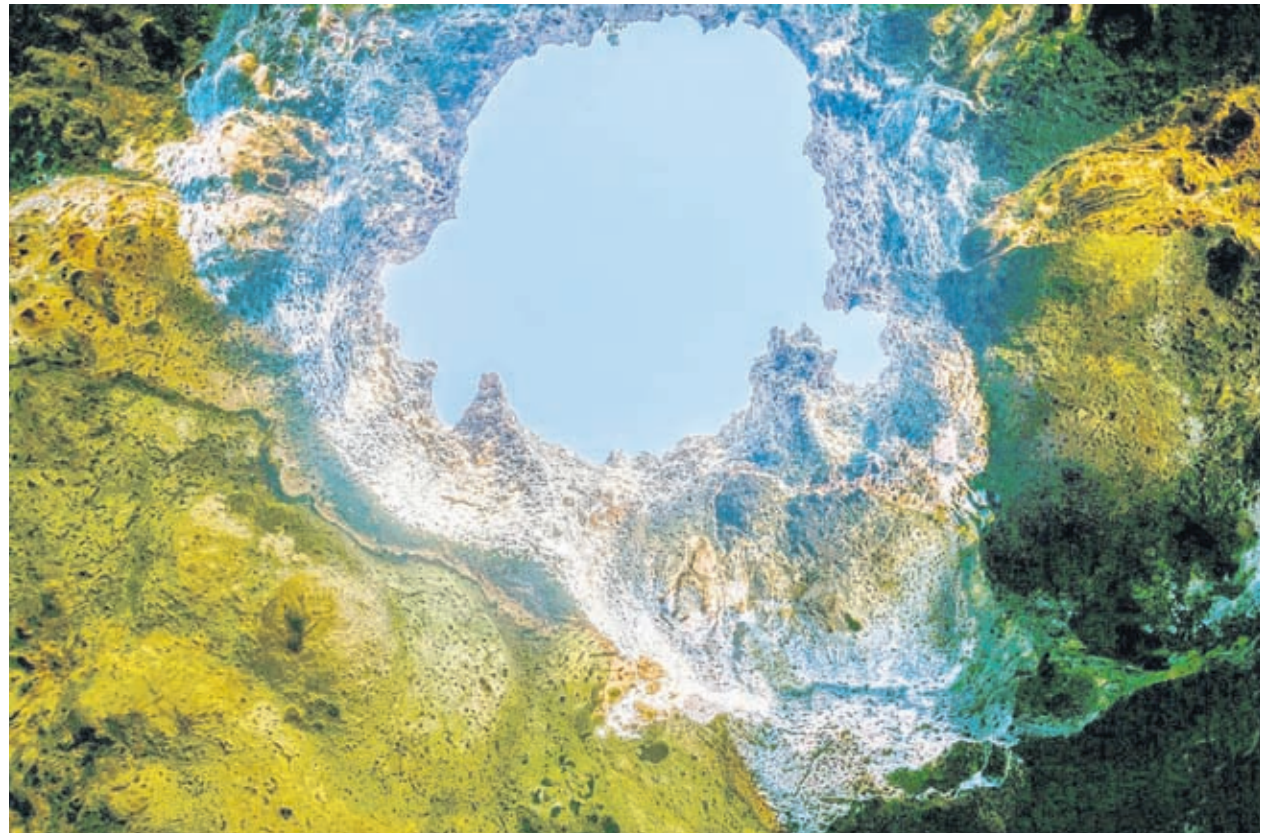
Today Is Going To Be A Good Day

Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Nature Calls



The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected



nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website www.arubanationalpark.org

The Lighthouse

No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The con-

struction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in



the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light. www.arubalighthouse.com will give you more information.

Kayak in the Mangroves

Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some work-out -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. Its fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook.



Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a “must see” landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the “T” junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the Anchor Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the “fluke” or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

“According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known



as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain.”

Story 2:

“Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them.”

How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Marti-

nus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The “anchor”, which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated “To All Seamen” on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on Sep-

tember 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated “To All Seamen” in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule.

CROSSWORD

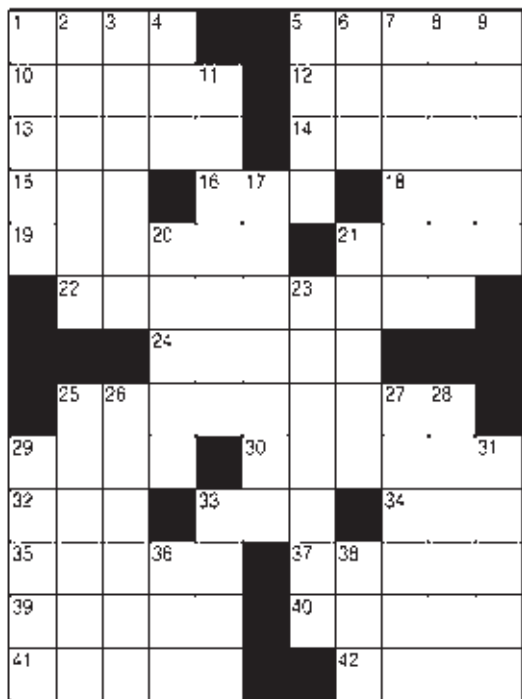
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 39 Loosen, as laces
 - 1 Bit of change
 - 5 Derision
 - 10 Protons' places
 - 12 Camp craft
 - 13 Betray
 - 14 Game setting
 - 15 Quarter-back Manning
 - 16 Resistance unit
 - 18 Plopped down
 - 19 Muralist Diego
 - 21 Actor O'Shea
 - 22 Vouched for
 - 24 Kind of kitchen
 - 25 Put right
 - 29 Phone message
 - 30 Charge for cash
 - 32 Much of N. Amer.
 - 33 French article
 - 34 Phoned copy
 - 35 Support staff
 - 37 Bring to bear



Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**
- 1 Bold one
 - 2 Stressed type
 - 3 Whodunit element
 - 4 Moody music
 - 5 Con man's con
 - 6 Lot sight
 - 7 Infant outfit
 - 8 Jimmy's successor
 - 9 "Swell!"
 - 11 Express disdain for
 - 17 From Port-au-Prince
 - 20 Put up costumes
 - 21 Half note
 - 23 Age for a quinceañera
 - 25 Take offense at
 - 26 Track bet
 - 27 Decadent
 - 28 More precious
 - 29 Ballet
 - 31 Spare
 - 33 Calls on
 - 36 Popular song
 - 38 Twice VII



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

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NPBS IKHS XDHSSXQNS MWXE
MWS WKCH ASAPGXMSA MK
MWS GSHSIKEJ FEKLE XR
XBMSHEKKE MSX. — WSEHJ
OXISR

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: GETTING TO A PLACE OF COMFORT CAN BE UNCOMFORTABLE. — MARCUS SAMUELSSON

Yeezy shoes still stuck in limbo after Adidas split with Ye

By DAVID McHUGH

Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— It's been nearly seven months since Adidas split with the rapper formerly known as Kanye West, and boxes of his popular Yeezy shoes are still piled up in warehouses.

The fate of 1.2 billion euros (\$1.3 billion) worth of unsold Yeezy stock is weighing on the German sportswear company as it tries to engineer a turnaround from the loss of the lucrative sneaker line and the continued fall-out over its former ties to Ye.

Adidas is "getting closer and closer to making a decision" on what to do with the sneakers and the "options are narrowing," new CEO Bjorn Gulden said in a conference call Friday after reporting 400 million euros (\$441 million) in lost sales at the start of the year.

But with "so many interested parties" involved in the discussions, no decision had yet been reached, he



Boxes containing Yeezy shoes made by Adidas are seen at Laced Up, a sneaker resale store, in Paramus, N.J., Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022.

Associated Press

said.

Adidas is stuck with stacks of its flagship Yeezy brand shoes after ending its relationship with Ye in October over his antisemitic and other offensive comments on social media and in interviews.

Gulden, who became CEO in January after the Ye split, declined to say if destroying the shoes had been ruled out but that the company was "trying to avoid that." He has previously said other options have drawbacks:

selling the sneakers would mean paying royalties to Ye, restitching them to remove the brand identification would be dishonest, and giving them away to people in need could lead to resale because of their high market value.

Gulden would not say how many pairs of Yeezy shoes that Adidas is stuck holding "because then the consumer would know how many we have and that could have an impact on demand." □

TurboTax customers to receive checks for \$141M settlement



This is a display of TurboTax on display in a Costco Warehouse in Pittsburgh on Thursday, Jan. 26, 2023.

Associated Press

By WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)

— Millions of Americans who qualified for free tax services but were instead deceived into paying TurboTax for their returns will soon get settlement checks in the mail.

In a settlement last year, TurboTax's owner Intuit Inc. was ordered to pay \$141 million to some 4.4 million people across the country. Those impacted were low-income consumers eligible for free, federally-supported tax services but paid TurboTax to file their federal returns across the 2016, 2017 and 2018 tax years due to "predatory and deceptive marketing," New York Attorney General Letitia James said. □

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24/7

Australia PM: U.S. effort to extradite Assange not worth it

By ROD MCGUIRK

Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)

— Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese expressed frustration at the United States' continuing efforts to extradite WikiLeaks founder and Australian citizen Julian Assange, saying: "There is nothing to be served by his ongoing incarceration."

Albanese's comments Friday in an Australian Broadcasting Corp. interview appeared to escalate diplomatic pressure on the United States to drop the charges against the 51-year-old Assange, who has spent four years in Britain's Belmarsh Prison fighting extradition to the United States.

Before that, Assange had taken asylum for seven years in the Ecuadorian Embassy in London.

Albanese said Assange's case had to be examined in terms of whether the time Assange had "effectively served" was in excess of what would be "reasonable" if the allegations against him were proved. "I just say that enough is enough. There is nothing to be served by his ongoing incarceration," Albanese said.

"I know it's frustrating, I share the frustration. I can't do more than make very clear what my position is and the U.S. administration is certainly very aware of what the Australian government's position is," Albanese added.

Assange has battled in British courts for years to avoid being sent to the U.S., where he faces 17 charges of espionage and one



WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange greets supporters on May 19, 2017, outside the Ecuadorian Embassy in London, where he has been in self imposed exile since 2012.

Associated Press

charge of computer misuse that stem from WikiLeaks' publication of a huge trove of classified documents in 2010.

American prosecutors allege he helped U.S. Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning steal classified diplomatic cables and military files that WikiLeaks later published, putting lives at risk.

To his supporters, Assange is a secrecy-busting journalist who exposed U.S. military wrongdoing in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Albanese said there was a "disconnect" between the U.S. treatment of Assange and Manning. Then-U.S. President Barack Obama commuted Manning's 35-year sentence to seven years, which allowed her release in 2017.

Albanese has said he has advocated for Assange in meetings with Biden administration officials.

On Friday, he declined to say whether he would raise Assange with Biden when Albanese hosts the U.S. leader along with leaders

of India and Japan in Sydney on May 24. □



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No place like road: Visiting teams thriving in NHL playoffs

By STEPHEN WHYNO
AP Hockey Writer

When the Vegas Golden Knights went on the road to face the Winnipeg Jets in the first round of the NHL playoffs, they got a chilly welcome and that was inside.

"They had no hot water at the Fairmont Hotel last week in Winnipeg, which I really didn't like at all," coach Bruce Cassidy said. "Great hotel, by the way: great service, nice people, just no damn hot water."

And no home cooking. Vegas beat the Jets twice on the road and won the series in five games.

The Golden Knights are not alone in what Tampa Bay coach Jon Cooper declared "the year of the road team." Visiting teams have matched the best start in league history with 34 wins through 56 games; the .607 winning percentage is by far the highest of any playoff year dating to 1966, not counting 2020 when games were played at neutral sites with no fans. Coaches point to better preparation and more roster depth as well as parity leaguewide that has evened out the differences among teams playing for the Stanley Cup. Matchups that used to be paramount don't matter as much now that there's so much offensive talent across lineups. There is less of a drop-off



The Seattle Kraken celebrate after Yanni Gourde scored in overtime of Game 1 of an NHL hockey Stanley Cup second-round playoff series against the Dallas Stars, Tuesday, May 2, 2023, in Dallas. The Kraken won 5-4.

Associated Press

from the stars on the first line to depth contributors on the fourth.

"It may have to do with the structure of the teams now and how much that's changed over the years," Florida coach Paul Maurice said before his team won a second consecutive road game take a 2-0 series lead on Toronto. "There's really high-end, skilled guys. Like our third line has three guys who can make plays. They're skilled guys. They're not even necessarily hitters, and that's kind of true around the league."

Maurice, Cassidy, Carolina coach Rod Brind'Amour

and noted that every rink is now the same size; no more special quirks like the tight corners in Boston Garden designed for the Bruins to be big and tough. It wasn't until 1996, when the Sabres moved out of "The Aud" in Buffalo, that all NHL arenas were a uniform 200-by-85 feet.

"When you think back to playoff series, you think of the old Boston Garden, Chicago Stadium," Cassidy said. "They were much more intimidating, smaller. You could build your roster a little around them, like baseball parks. Now it's pretty much 200 by 85. That

has something to do with it."

Brind'Amour said home ice has "become less of an advantage." No offense to home fans, he said, who give the Hurricanes energy, but the longtime player-turned-coach said, "I just don't know how much it hurts the other team."

Since 2011, only once have road teams won more than home teams, when they went 44-40 (.524) in 2018. Add up all the playoffs since 2011 and road teams have gone 434-531 (.450). They're 34-22 this year one fewer road win than all of last season. "It is a league-

wide trend, but it doesn't make you feel any better about it," Toronto coach Sheldon Keefe said after the Maple Leafs lost at home to Florida in Game 1. "No matter where we're playing, you should be able to play the same."

That gets to the root of the road-warrior mentality, too. Not only are players often more free from distraction away from home but they tend to streamline their approach.

"Sometimes on the road, you have a different mindset of playing simple," Edmonton forward Ryan Nugent-Hopkins said.

A rule change passed several years ago also takes a tactical advantage away. On faceoffs before 2015, the visiting player had to put his stick down first, giving his home rival a positioning edge that can make a difference. Now that's only a factor at center ice because everywhere else the player closest to his own goal must put his stick down first.

Home teams still get the last line change, which allows coaches to better dictate matchups. But Maurice showed in Florida's wins at Toronto how little he cared about getting certain players out against the Leafs' top scorers something former player Anson Carter sees as an evolution of talent. □

Nadal to miss Italian Open as well due to hip injury

MADRID (AP) — Rafael Nadal won't be able to play the Italian Open either as he remains hampered by a nagging hip injury.

"I'm sorry to announce that I won't be able to be in Rome," Nadal said in a Twitter post in Spanish on Friday.

"You all know how much it hurts me to miss another one of the tournaments that has a place in my career as a professional and

a person as well as for the support my Italian fans show me."

Nadal has won the Italian Open a record 10 times.

The 22-time Grand Slam winner has been sidelined since January by a left hip flexor injury he picked up at the Australian Open. The issue had already kept him from playing at Indian Wells, Miami, Monte Carlo, Barcelona and Madrid.

Nadal said even though he

feels better he is not ready to play.

"Despite noting an improvement in recent days, it has been several months since I have been able to train at a high level," he wrote. "The re-adaptation process needs its time, and I don't have any choice other than to accept that."

The 36-year-old Nadal did not mention his prospects for being fit for the French Open starting on May 28. □



Rafael Nadal of Spain serves to Jack Draper of Britain during their first round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, on Jan. 16, 2023.

Associated Press

19 horses to tangle in wide-open 149th Kentucky Derby

By **BETH HARRIS**
AP Racing Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The cast of characters for the 149th Kentucky Derby was rewritten in the days before the race. What didn't change: Forte is the early 3-1 favorite on Saturday in a seemingly wide-open field of 19 horses.

Four horses were scratched: Practical Move, Lord Miles, Continuar and Skinner and three horses waiting on the also-eligible list moved into the field. They are Cyclone Mischief, Mandarin Hero and King Russell.

Last year's Derby was a stunner: 80-1 shot Rich Strike weaved his way through traffic and came rushing up the rail to win. NBC Sports' overhead replay of the race was viewed more than 36 million times.

A crowd of about 150,000 is expected to jam Churchill Downs to wager and watch the 1 1/4-mile Derby. Post time is 6:57 p.m. EDT.

Forte breaks from the No. 15 post, which has produced six winners. The dark brown colt is trained by two-time Derby winner Todd Pletcher, who also has the second favorite in Tapit Trice, at 5-1.

The Todd Squad includes Kingsbarns, and it's an impressive trio.



Irad Ortiz Jr. rides Forte to victory during the Breeders' Cup Juvenile race at Keeneland Race Course, Friday, Nov. 4, 2022, in Lexington, Ky.

Associated Press

Forte was last year's 2-year-old champion and has six wins in seven career starts, including five in a row. Tapit Trice is 4 for 5 and Kingsbarns is 3 for 3.

"You could say it's the deepest squad we've brought so far," Pletcher said.

Louisville-born Brad Cox won his first Derby belatedly when Mandaloun was elevated to first place after Medina Spirit's disqualification nine months after the 2021 race.

"There's no thrill of winning the Derby through a phone call," he said. "There's no celebration, there's no winning picture."

Cox has a leading four chances to make the winner's circle in person this year: early 8-1 third choice Angel of Empire; Hit Show; Verifying; and Jace's Road. "I'm sure it would be a feeling like no other," he said. Gary and Mary West, who own Hit Show, are seeking retribution of their own.

Their horse, Maximum Secu-

city, crossed the Derby finish line first in 2019, but was disqualified for interference after a 22-minute delay while stewards reviewed video. Country House was awarded the garland of red roses. The Wests sued unsuccessfully to have the stewards' decision reversed. "They would like to cross the wire first and stay up," Cox said. "They got a really live crack. This colt is really doing well."

A couple of jockeys are looking for similar satisfac-

tion.

Luis Saez rode Maximum Security in 2019 and received a 15-day suspension for interfering with others; he's seeking his first Derby win aboard Tapit Trice. Florent Geroux, who was on Mandaloun, is on Jace's Road. For the second straight year, the Derby is without Bob Baffert. The Hall of Fame trainer with a record-tying six victories is soon to complete a two-year ban by Churchill Downs Inc. He was punished after Medina Spirit flunked a post-race drug test.

Baffert's shadow still looms large over the Twin Spires. A colt previously trained by him, Reincarnate, will be in the starting gate.

Trainer Saffie Joseph Jr. found himself on the sideline after being indefinitely suspended Thursday by Churchill Downs Inc. His Derby entry, Lord Miles, was scratched.

Two of Joseph's horses died after races at the track in the days leading up to the Derby.

No cause of death has yet been found.

New antidoping and medication rules to be enforced by the sport's new central governing body won't take effect until May 22, after the Derby and the Preakness. □



New York Mets pitcher Matt Harvey throws during the first inning of Game 1 of the Major League Baseball World Series against the Kansas City Royals, Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2015, in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

Matt Harvey, the Mets' 'Dark Knight,' retires at 34

NEW YORK (AP) — Matt Harvey announced Friday he's retiring from baseball after a nine-year pitching career highlighted by his time as the Mets' "Dark Knight."

Harvey, whose star faded amid injuries and a late-career suspension for drug distribution, thanked fans for making "a dream come true" in his Instagram post announcing his retirement.

Nicknamed the "Dark Knight of Gotham," Harvey was selected seventh overall by the Mets in the 2010 amateur draft and made a heralded major league debut in 2012. He started the 2013 All-Star Game at Citi Field, but a little more than a month later tore the ulnar collateral ligament in his pitching elbow and needed Tommy John surgery. He returned in 2015 and went 13-8, helping the Mets reach the World Series,

where they lost to the Kansas City Royals. "I pitched to win," Harvey wrote in his post. "To fire up my team and more importantly, to fire up the fans in a city that I've always loved." He was traded to the Cincinnati Reds in May 2018, pitched for the Los Angeles Angels in 2019, the Royals in 2020 and the Baltimore Orioles in 2021. Health woes, including thoracic outlet syndrome, contributed to Harvey failing to recapture his early career magic.

Harvey, 34, acknowledged in his post that "with all the amazing memories came a lot of injuries and tough times." Last year, Harvey testified at the trial of a former Los Angeles Angels employee who was later convicted of providing pitcher Tyler Skaggs the drugs that led to his overdose death in July 2019. □

Weekly SPECIALS

<div><div><div>WAS \$8.05</div><div>\$5.14</div><div>Per KG</div></div><div></div><div>Pork Spareribs</div></div>	<div><div><div>WAS \$8.51</div><div>\$7.42</div><div>Per KG</div></div><div></div><div>Grapes Red Globe Seeded</div></div>	<div><div><div>WAS \$9.82</div><div>\$7.42</div><div>Per KG</div></div><div></div><div>Chorizo Sausage</div></div>	<div><div><div>WAS \$3.71</div><div>\$2.97</div><div>Per KG</div></div><div></div><div>Tomatoes Reg</div></div>	
<div><div><div>WAS \$2.57</div><div>\$1.99</div><div>100 GR</div></div><div></div><div>Oven Roasted White Turkey Breast</div></div>	<div><div><div>WAS \$2.28</div><div>\$1.71</div><div>Each</div></div><div></div><div>Garlic Sleeved Sct</div></div>	<div><div><div>WAS \$6.68</div><div>\$5.71</div><div>Per KG</div></div><div></div><div>Chicken Drumsticks</div></div>	<div><div><div>WAS \$1.19</div><div>\$0.74</div><div>Each</div></div><div></div><div>Corn Yellow</div></div>	<div><div><div>WAS \$4.57</div><div>\$3.99</div><div>Each</div></div><div></div><div>Asparagus Tips 1LB</div></div>
<div><div><div>WAS \$7.42</div><div>\$6.05</div><div>Each</div></div><div></div><div>Panamei Tilapia 1LB</div></div>	<div><div><div>WAS \$9.75</div><div>\$9.14</div><div>Each</div></div><div></div><div>Crisco Pure Canola Oil 40oz</div></div>	<div><div><div>WAS \$2.59</div><div>\$1.19</div><div>Each</div></div><div></div><div>WH Organic Garbanzo Beans Can 15oz</div></div>	<div><div><div>WAS \$4.34</div><div>\$3.99</div><div>Each</div></div><div></div><div>Libby's Regular Corned Beef 340g</div></div>	<div><div><div>WAS \$6.28</div><div>\$5.71</div><div>Each</div></div><div></div><div>EE 100 Pineapple Juice 64oz</div></div>
<div><div><div>WAS \$3.37</div><div>\$2.91</div><div>Each</div></div><div></div><div>Almond Breeze Assorted Milk 32oz</div></div> <div><div><div>WAS \$3.59</div><div>\$3.31</div><div>Each</div></div><div></div><div>Silk Soymilk Original/Almond 32oz</div></div>	<div><div><div>WAS \$7.99</div><div>\$6.85</div><div>Each</div></div><div></div><div>Colgate Mouthwash Optic White Icy 500 ml</div></div> <div><div><div>WAS \$2.45</div><div>\$2.28</div><div>Each</div></div><div></div><div>Gwoon Toilet Papier 3 Laags Katoen 4stk</div></div>	<div><div><div>WAS \$1.65</div><div>\$1.37</div><div>100 GR</div></div><div></div><div>Belegen Koos</div></div> <div><div><div>WAS \$1.54</div><div>\$1.25</div><div>100 GR</div></div><div></div><div>Virginia Smoked Ham</div></div>		

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